

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A marked-up version of the claims that will be pending following entry of the present amendments showing the amendments made herein follows. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by strikethrough and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

35. (Currently amended) A method of enriching for hepatic progenitors from liver comprising:

- (a) preparing a single-cell suspension of liver cells; and
- (b) panning said suspension utilizing antibodies specific for hemopoietic cells, mesenchymal cells, mature liver cells, or combinations thereof, to remove said hemopoietic cells, mesenchymal cells, mature liver cells, or combinations thereof, from said suspension such that said suspension is enriched in hepatic progenitors.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the mesenchymal cells comprise endothelial cells.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the mature liver cells comprise at least one of hepatocytes and bile duct cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 which further comprises performing multiparametric fluorescence activated cell sorting on said suspension utilizing at least one antibody to a hepatic cell marker, side scatter, forward scatter, autofluorescence, or combinations thereof.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~antibody~~ antibodies specific for hemopoietic cells is-a are monoclonal ~~antibody~~ antibodies.
40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension comprises an agent capable of removing calcium from liver cell surface.
41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension comprises EGTA.
42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension comprises an enzyme capable of dissociating liver cells.
43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension contains collagenase.
44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension is chilled.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein said single cell suspension is at a temperature of between about 2 and 20 °C.
46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the liver is neonatal liver.
47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the liver is embryonic liver.
48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the liver is adult liver.
49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein said monoclonal ~~antibody~~ antibodies is are at least one of OX-43 and OX-44.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 38 wherein the antibody to a hepatic cell marker is monoclonal antibody 374.3

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~35~~ 38 wherein said hepatic cell marker is OC.3.